

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HELD:

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR

Official Court Reporter

C O U N C I L     M E M B E R S :

WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT - absent

KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

MARK MCANDREW

JESSICA ROTHCHILD

THOMAS SCHUSTER

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MR. DONAHUE: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

8 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Okay. I would like  
14 to make a motion to appoint Councilman Donahue  
15 as temporary chair for the Committee on Rules.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

17 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? On  
18 the question, President Gaughan had a previous  
19 commitment and couldn't make it tonight. So  
20 I'll be running the meeting. All those in  
21 favor?

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Opposed? The ayes  
2 have it and so moved.

3 MR. MCANDREW: I'd like to make  
4 another motion to table Item 7-A, File of the  
5 Council No. 60, 2021.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. DONAHUE: There's a motion on  
8 the floor and a second to table Item 7-A. On  
9 the question? On the question, we're just  
10 tabling this for a week. Myself and Councilman  
11 Schuster have a meeting with some residents  
12 that had some concerns about some of the no  
13 parking or a new signal on Oram and Main  
14 Avenue.

15 So we're going to have that meeting  
16 tomorrow. So hopefully we'll have this back  
17 next week. All those in favor signify by  
18 saying aye.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Opposed? The ayes  
24 have it and so moved. Dispense with the  
25 reading of the minutes.

1 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

2 3-A. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE

3 PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2021.

4 3-B. CHECK RECEIVED FROM THE

5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DATED MARCH 16,

6 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,156,905.33 FOR PAYMENT

7 OF MUNICIPAL LIQUID FUELS.

8 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS

9 DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT 2020-2021 YEAR TO

10 DATE MARCH 31, 2021.

11 3-D. NAY AUG PARK SWIMMING POOL

12 FEASIBILITY STUDY PRESENTED TO SCRANTON CITY

13 COUNCIL ON MARCH 30, 2021 BY MKSD ARCHITECTS.

14 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO MAYOR

15 PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED MARCH 30, 2021

16 REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CHIEF.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Are there any comments

18 on any of the Third Order items? If not,

19 received and filed. Do any Council members

20 have any announcements at this time?

21 MR. MCANDREW: I have a quick one.

22 So our friends over in South Side, South Side

23 Revitalization Committee are going to have a

24 neighborhood cleanup event. When is it? It's

25 going to be Sunday, April 18th. Where? Cedar

1 Avenue. Free supplies will be at South Side  
2 Farmers Market. To get involved, you could  
3 e-mail HYORKONIS, K-O-N-I-S, at UNCNEPA.org.  
4 That is all I have.

5 MR. DONAHUE: The only thing I have  
6 is just a reminder that garbage and recycling  
7 pickup is a day late this week due to the  
8 holiday.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: I have one also, a  
10 cleanup which will happen over in Pine Brook.  
11 It's a community cleanup over at Sweeney's  
12 Beach. That's going to be held Saturday, April  
13 24th at 10 a.m. And that's being hosted I  
14 believe by the UNC, United Neighborhood Center.  
15 So you could probably find more information  
16 through them.

17 MR. DONAUHE: Thank you. Mrs. Reed.

18 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS  
19 PARTICIPATION.

20 MR. DONAHUE: At this time will  
21 someone please make a motion to accept public  
22 comment from the following individuals, Al  
23 Young, Fay Franus and Janet Wenzel.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion to  
25 accept public comment.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

2 MR. DONAHUE: There's a motion and a  
3 second to accept public comment. Mrs. Reed,  
4 please read the public comments into the  
5 record.

6 MS. REED: Thank you. The first  
7 submission is from Albert and Elaine Young as  
8 follows:

9 To the members of Scranton Administration and  
10 Scranton City Council,

11 We would like a REAL explanation  
12 or reason as to WHY.--- no more excuses ---  
13 lies--- or the provable political football  
14 runaround, as to why the city has NOT allowed  
15 the contractor to finish the work here in our  
16 yards. This part is of the contract, it is not  
17 "LITIGATION" or the fact that " DEP" may be  
18 working on a project.

19 Now there is a religious anthem with  
20 words that state and I QUOTE " IT IS WELL IN MY  
21 SOUL" unquote, This is Not well in our souls do  
22 to the fact that the city hired a contractor to  
23 perform a "TEMPORARY" repair to our properties.  
24 The contractor did in fact perform much of what  
25 the contract called for--- BUT the CITY-- has

1 held back on allowing work to be finished. The  
2 contractor would like to finish this project so  
3 that we are pleased with his work and that he  
4 can get paid. The work that was performed has  
5 left a big mess, a MUDDY-- GRAVEL piece of  
6 land, which is Not acceptable. The contractor  
7 removed his equipment going on 28 months ago  
8 and we have had to put up with your excuses.

9 The CITY administration advertises  
10 that they want to be "TRANSPARENT " but in the  
11 long run all they have done is put on "BLACK  
12 OUT GLASSES", it is time to remove them and get  
13 the work completed.

14 " THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
15 LITIGATION and OBLIGATION " it is time to open  
16 your eyes and get with the project and finalize  
17 it. We know that DEP is working on a PERMANANT  
18 repair but their work has been in progress for  
19 20 or more years and the latest stats that were  
20 quoted are, that it may be another  
21 ---3---5---or even 10 years before they reach  
22 some kind of working program. We think this is  
23 VERY UNFAIR to be held HOSTAGE for a want to be  
24 solution that some dreamer has put into play.

25 I did speak with a former city



1           official that did in fact walk our yard some 30  
2           years ago and the statement was that it is "  
3           TOTALLY out of context to be held up this  
4           long."

5                       POTUS states that by the 4th of July  
6           of this year we ALL should be holding picnics  
7           in our back yards ,guess he was wrong because  
8           it looks like we will still be HOSTAGES.

9                       There has only been (1) one city  
10          official to tour the yards in the last 29  
11          months, which really tells us that because it  
12          is NOT in our yards then WE DO NOT CARE about  
13          you.

14                      At this point in life someone had  
15          better step up and do something and finish what  
16          was started. It certainly has gone on much too  
17          long. The city has found time and money for  
18          other things, now we think it is time to find  
19          the time to finish what you started. We really  
20          do not care if and when a permanent repair is  
21          made, that all of this must be torn back up, we  
22          just want to see grass and pavement instead of  
23          MUD.

24                      MS. REED: The second submission is  
25          from Fay Franus as follows:

1 Council

2 Would you consider seriously having  
3 a referendum put on the November ballot asking  
4 the citizens of Scranton if they want to get  
5 rid of the Home Rule Charter? It has been  
6 decades since the Home Rule Charter has been  
7 put in place and I believe it is time to get  
8 rid of the Home Rule Charter. The citizens of  
9 Scranton have not benefited at all from having  
10 the Home Rule Charter.

11 One of the benefits of doing away  
12 with the Home Rule Charter would be that the  
13 city could no longer keep taxing it's citizens  
14 as they have been for decades. There are plenty  
15 of other advantages as well.

16 Right now I need to know from you  
17 how you feel about doing this. Why not let the  
18 citizens decide? After all you are suppose to  
19 be representing us. We should have a say in  
20 this important matter. Please reply to this  
21 with your reasoning. We need to know if you  
22 truly do represent us or your own agenda.

23 MS. REED: And the third and final  
24 submission is from Mrs. Janet Wenzel.

25 This is a major traffic problem in

1 Scranton. It keeps customers away from city  
2 businesses. The detours throughout the Hill  
3 Section today cause me to ask:

4 1. Birch Street closed many years.  
5 When will the project be finished?

6 2. Elm Street cut last year makes  
7 this other South Scranton Street dangerous.  
8 Avoiding oncoming traffic, ambulances and  
9 LONG, LARGE cut potholes.

10 3. Main Avenue UGI work through to  
11 June. NO OTHER projects should be allowed.

12 4. Stop light replacement necessary  
13 at Cedar and Elm.

14 5. Street lights on Harrison Avenue  
15 Bridge out since February. A beautiful entrance  
16 to Scranton.

17 6. Repair stone work at the Lookout.  
18 Another beautiful spot to enter Scranton is a  
19 MESS!

20  
21 (Concludes public comment letters as  
22 submitted to Council.)

23  
24 MS. REED: And that is all, Council.

25 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? On

1           the question, beginning with Mr. Young, didn't  
2           we request to see if they would go out and  
3           plant that grass and they said they were going  
4           to look into that in terms of so they didn't  
5           have to look at mud.

6                     I know it's a not a long-term fix to  
7           complete the issue. But I believe they did and  
8           they said they were going to look into -- the  
9           administration said they were going to look  
10          into ways to --

11                    MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, that was  
12          something that was discussed a couple weeks  
13          ago. I think there is a little bit more than  
14          just planting grass. I do think there's a --  
15          I'd say probably a couple truckloads of dirt  
16          and maybe a 6 by 40 piece of asphalt, something  
17          like that. But it doesn't seem like it would  
18          be too much.

19                    MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, I know they did  
20          say that. So we'll pass those along. In terms  
21          of Mrs. Franus's comments, in my opinion I  
22          think it's more complicated than that. When  
23          you get into state tax enabling law, it really  
24          doesn't matter whether you're a Home Rule  
25          Charter or not.

1                   We're still dealing with tax  
2                   enabling legislation that's -- hasn't been  
3                   changed since the late 60s when Pennsylvania  
4                   was more, you know, city, you know, wealth was  
5                   more concentrated in the cities and there  
6                   wasn't as much sprawl but that is completely  
7                   another issue.

8                   So I really don't think that, you  
9                   know, whether we're or home rule city -- Home  
10                  Rule Charter City or not really solves our  
11                  issue on that front.

12                 And in terms of Mrs. Wenzel's  
13                 comments, the first one on Birch Street, I  
14                 believe that that is open now for some traffic.  
15                 Full restoration wouldn't be complete until the  
16                 end of April. That was the last update we got.  
17                 But we will check on that.

18                 We have been keeping an eye on that.  
19                 And Elm Street is -- the reason that's in such  
20                 bad shape is because of Birch Street because  
21                 they have to close down Elm Street to finish  
22                 the work because they have to bore a hole under  
23                 the railroad tracks. So that will be closed  
24                 for two weeks once Birch Street is fully  
25                 reopened and then Elm Street will be fully

1           restored as well.

2                       And in terms of the other ones,  
3           we'll pass those along. I agree, you know,  
4           with the stoplight replacement at Cedar and  
5           Elm. I wasn't aware of the streetlights on  
6           Harrison Avenue. But we'll look into that and  
7           I believe we did send something on repairing  
8           the stone work at the lookout a couple months  
9           back. But we'll look into that too. Anybody  
10          else?

11                   MR. SCHUSTER: Just to add another  
12          thing, the stone work up at the lookout, is  
13          that a WPA project?

14                   MR. DONAHUE: I believe it was.

15                   MR. SCHUSTER: Just to throw it out  
16          there, there may be, you know, funding  
17          available or some kind of funding available to  
18          preserve those projects.

19                   MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I know we saw  
20          that somewhere in the last couple months. I  
21          just have to search back. And I didn't get a  
22          chance to after we got this today. But we'll  
23          get into that too.

24                   MR. SCHUSTER: I know looking back  
25          at, like, the Audubon School, the wall that was

1 around the Audubon School was a Works Program  
2 from the WPA. And I felt like that should have  
3 been looked into a little bit before that they  
4 pulled that down.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Anyone else? All  
6 those in favor of approving Citizens  
7 Participation, signify by saying aye.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Opposed? The ayes  
13 have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
15 MOTIONS.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. Schuster, do you  
17 have any motions or comments?

18 MR. SCHUSTER: The only comments I  
19 have, there was a couple properties I had a few  
20 complaints about. I spoke to Lori before the  
21 meeting. I'm going to send them over, one on  
22 Cherry Street, we did get an e-mail for  
23 814-816, the apartment on Luzerne Street.

24 And there was another e-mail that  
25 came to us about that property. It doesn't

1           seem like anybody went out possibly. And from  
2           what the e-mail stated, just more garbage being  
3           piled up at that address.

4                       So I will send an e-mail about those  
5           properties. Mr. McAndrew is going to speak  
6           about another property with St. Francis  
7           Cabrini. And does anybody know about what's  
8           going on at Keyser Avenue? I see that there is  
9           tree clearings there. I'd say probably like, 2  
10          or 3 acres.

11                      I had a resident inquire about that.  
12          I'm planning on sending an e-mail to get a  
13          little bit more information on what's happening  
14          over there. All right. So just I'll send the  
15          e-mails over to Lori and have them forwarded.  
16          That's all.

17                      MR. DONAHUE: Thank you. Mr.  
18          McAndrew?

19                      MR. MCANDREW: Yes, so last week I  
20          received a phone call from a concerned  
21          resident. And it's about a property -- the  
22          property is 125-127 North St. Francis Cabrini  
23          Avenue.

24                      Recently there was a raid with the  
25          Street Crimes Unit. They do a fantastic job.



1           This complaint isn't about them. It's about  
2           the occupants of this home and the absent  
3           landlord. The neighbors are very concerned  
4           about their safety because there is constant --  
5           there's a revolving door at this apartment  
6           building.

7                     You know, they raided. Some people  
8           got arrested. And then the same criminal  
9           element ends up being back in these apartments.  
10          So -- and they reached out to me. And I don't  
11          have the answers. So that's why I'm going to  
12          ask the question.

13                    So I do know that after so many  
14          complaints on an apartment or a home where  
15          there is criminal activity something could be  
16          done. I don't know what that is. So my  
17          question, Mrs. Reed, if you could please send  
18          correspondence to the police department and  
19          find these answers for me and the concerned  
20          residents on that street.

21                    So, like, what's the next step? So  
22          this is occurring all the time. What is the  
23          actual process that prevents this from  
24          happening again. And how many complaints in a  
25          year does it take for something to happen? Is

1           it one? Is it five? Is it -- I don't know all  
2           of these. But these are residents that lived  
3           there their whole life. They love their  
4           neighborhood. But this one piece of it, this  
5           element is just -- continues to happen.

6                     I do know I remember the Broadway  
7           Bar. It was a horrible bar where a lot of  
8           criminal activity happened. And I know for a  
9           while, you know, the cops would know where they  
10          were so they kept it there so they could do  
11          their -- you now, focused on eliminating that  
12          bad element.

13                    But eventually that place was torn  
14          down. So there was a process for that. What's  
15          the process for this type of incident, behavior  
16          or ongoing threat to public safety? So that's  
17          all I have. Thank you.

18                   MR. DONAHUE: Dr. Rothchild?

19                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I just want to  
20          mention real quick because you were talking  
21          about some of the streetlights that need to be  
22          fixed. One did contact me over the weekend  
23          about the traffic light at the intersection of  
24          Alder and Cedar Avenue.

25                   So I had Lori reach out to

1 Mr. Preambo from DPW and that's now repaired.  
2 So if anyone else had a concern about that  
3 streetlight that that's taken care of. So  
4 thanks to our DPW workers for getting on that  
5 quickly.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you. Yeah, the  
7 only thing I had too is I had also spoke to the  
8 same resident, Mark, and I'm sure Tom did. I  
9 know he was just, you know, concerned just  
10 about the situation with that. So if we could  
11 look into that.

12 Lori, that should probably also go  
13 to LIPS too because I think they might be a  
14 part of, you know, putting a declaration of a  
15 nuisance property or whatever it is onto, you  
16 know, on that property. And that's all I have  
17 too.

18 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR  
19 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE – AUTHORIZING THE  
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE  
21 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS  
22 TO IMPLEMENT THE HUD 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN  
23 FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
24 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
25 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

1 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
2 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD  
3 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021.

4 MR. DONAHUE: At this time I'll  
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced  
6 into its proper committee.

7 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? On  
10 the question, a public hearing will be held on  
11 this item next week April 13th at 5:45 and then  
12 after that, OECD Director, Eileen Cipriani will  
13 be attending our caucus to discuss the 2021  
14 Action Plan and to answer any questions we  
15 might have. All those in favor of introduction  
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MS. SCHUSTER: Aye.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Opposed? The ayes  
22 have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF  
25 SCRANTON TO APPROVE THE DESIGNATION OF THIRD

1 AVENUE AS ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM ELM STREET TO  
2 ITS INTERSECTION WITH BROADWAY STREET WITH THE  
3 INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) R5-1 "DO NOT ENTER"  
4 SIGNS (30"X30") AT THE INTERSECTION OF THIRD  
5 AVENUE AND BROADWAY STREET; R6-1L HORIZONTAL  
6 LEFT ONE-WAY SIGNS SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE  
7 INTERSECTIONS OF THIRD AVENUE AND REGAN PLACE;  
8 THIRD AVENUE AND FELLOW STREET; THIRD AVENUE  
9 AND LUZERNE STREET AND THIRD AVENUE AND  
10 BROADWAY STREET ALONG WITH "NO PARKING"  
11 DESIGNATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF THIRD AVENUE  
12 FROM LUZERNE STREET NORTH TO BROADWAY STREET  
13 AND THAT SIX (6) R8-3 "NO PARKING" SYMBOL SIGNS  
14 (12"X12"), FOUR (4) WITH R-301 "NO PARKING"  
15 ARROW PLAQUE, ONE (1) WITH R-301 "NO PARKING"  
16 LEFT ARROW PLAQUE AND ONE (1) WITH R-301 "NO  
17 PARKING" RIGHT ARROW PLAQUE BE INSTALLED UNDER  
18 THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY ENGINEER TO  
19 ALLOW FOR IMPROVED ACCESS FROM THIRD AVENUE  
20 ONTO BROADWAY STREET.

21 MR. DONAHUE: At this time I'll  
22 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced  
23 into its proper committee.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

1 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? On  
2 the question, this is to help hopefully  
3 alleviate some of the issues of the residents  
4 of Third Avenue have been having with truck  
5 traffic. This way they'll only have to deal  
6 with it going -- you know, traffic going one  
7 way and not both ways. All those in favor of  
8 introduction signify by saying aye.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

13 MR. DONAUHE: Opposed? The ayes  
14 have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
16 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A DONATION  
17 PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FROM 9-11  
18 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY IN THE  
19 AMOUNT OF \$145.00 TO PURCHASE A SIGN THAT WILL  
20 BE USED TO DEDICATE THE 1800 BLOCK OF ROSEN  
21 COURT IN MEMORY OF WALTER A. PASIAK.

22 MR. DONAHUE: At this time I'll  
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced  
24 into its proper committee.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

2 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? All  
3 those in favor of introduction signify by  
4 saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. DONAUHE: Opposed? The ayes  
10 have it and so moved.

11 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

12 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 63,  
13 2021 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
14 COUNCIL NO. 41, 2020 ENTITLED "AMENDING FILE OF  
15 THE COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED 'AN  
16 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX  
17 FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF  
18 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET  
19 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS  
20 AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF  
21 SCRANTON, OR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR  
23 BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
24 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS  
25 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO

1 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE  
2 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF  
3 THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE  
4 VIOLATIONS', BY RE-ENACTING THE IMPOSITION OF  
5 THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS (2.4%)  
6 PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR RESIDENTS AND ONE  
7 (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS  
8 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE,  
9 SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN  
10 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND THE  
11 SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT  
12 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY EXTENDING THE DATE THAT  
13 THE TAXES ARE DUE AND OWING FOR GENERAL REVENUE  
14 PURPOSES ON EARNED INCOME FROM ITS ORIGINAL DUE  
15 DATE OF APRIL 15, 2021 TO MAY 17, 2021 IN  
16 CONFORMITY WITH THE UNITED STATES TREASURY  
17 DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
18 PENNSYLVANIA.

19 MR. DONAHUE: You've heard reading  
20 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
22 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

24 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? All  
25 those in favor signify by saying aye.



1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

5 MR. DONAUHE: Opposed? The ayes  
6 have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
8 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 64, 2021 - AN  
9 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
10 31, 2020 (AS AMENDED), AN ORDINANCE  
11 "AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
12 APPROVE THE DESIGNATION OF THE 300 BLOCK OF  
13 CENTER STREET AS A ONE-WAY STREET FROM PENN  
14 AVENUE TOWARDS WYOMING AVENUE WITH THE  
15 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE THE  
16 DESIGNATIONS AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED  
17 DRAWING, C-4 CENTER STREET PARKING"  
18 TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE ONE-WAY TRAVEL  
19 FROM WYOMING AVENUE TO PENN AVENUE.

20 MR. DONAHUE: You've heard reading  
21 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Chairman, I move  
23 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

24 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

25 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? All

1           those in favor signify by saying aye.

2                   MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

3                   MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

4                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

6                   MR. DONAUHE: Opposed? The ayes  
7           have it and so moved.

8                   MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
9           PREVIOUSLY TABLED.

10                   7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
11           COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
12           FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 61, 2021 - CREATING  
13           CHAPTER 426 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER ENTITLED  
14           "SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER CONVERSION  
15           EFFORTS."

16                   DR. ROTHCHILD: I make a motion to  
17           amend Item 7-B in the following respects:  
18           First, the Title of the proposed Ordinance is  
19           to be deleted and replaced with the following  
20           Title:

21                   "AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 446  
22           OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ENTITLED  
23           'SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER CONVERSION  
24           EFFORTS'".

25                   Secondly, the definition of

1           “Conversion Therapy” as provided in Section  
2           446.01 of the proposed Ordinance shall be  
3           deleted and replaced with the following:  
4           “'CONVERSION THERAPY.' Any practice or  
5           treatment that seeks to convert one's sexual  
6           orientation or gender identity or expression,  
7           including efforts to change behaviors, or to  
8           eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic  
9           attractions or feelings toward individuals of  
10          the same sex.

11                       The term does not include practices  
12          or treatments that do not seek to change a  
13          person's sexual orientation or gender identity  
14          and that provide assistance to a person  
15          undergoing gender transition or that provide  
16          acceptance, support, and understanding of  
17          clients or facilitate clients' coping, social  
18          support, and identity exploration and  
19          development, including  
20          sexual-orientation-neutral interventions to  
21          prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe  
22          sexual practices.”

23                       MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

24                       MR. DONAHUE: There's a motion on  
25          the floor and a second to amend Item 7-B. On

1 the question?

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: On the question, I  
3 spoke to these changes in caucus. But I'll  
4 just reiterate quickly. The title we had  
5 incorrectly before again changed to the Home  
6 Rule Charter when it's -- chapter and code so  
7 that title was corrected by the amended version  
8 tonight.

9 And then the definition of  
10 conversion therapy we received some guidance on  
11 just the sequencing of some of the words in the  
12 definition for conversion therapy. And we made  
13 that adjustment so just to strengthen the  
14 legislation to make sure that it's effective  
15 and enforceable. And then I don't know if  
16 Solicitor Hayes has anything to add to that.

17 ATTY. HAYES: No, Dr. Rothchild, I  
18 think you correctly summarized what was the  
19 purpose of the amendments.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: And then guidance,  
22 where did the guidance come from?

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: A solicitor through  
24 national organization, the Trevor Project which  
25 has been doing a lot of work on conversion

1 therapy legislation in other states.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. Great. All  
3 those in favor of the amendment signify by  
4 saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Opposed? The ayes  
10 have it and so moved.

11 As temporary Chairperson for the  
12 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage of  
13 Item 7-B as amended.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

15 MR. DONAUHE: On the question?

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, on the  
17 question, I know that we've spoken to this  
18 piece of legislation before. But I just wanted  
19 to reiterate a few things quickly.

20 I'm very proud to have brought this  
21 legislation forward to Council. I'm really  
22 thankful to have the support of my colleagues  
23 as well as the Mayor and her administration.  
24 We've had conversations about this piece over  
25 the past couple of months just to make sure

1           that, you know, that it was a strong piece of  
2           legislation to bring forth to you all.

3                     And, you know, I really think that  
4           any way that we can help out the LGBTQ youth  
5           that are in the Scranton community is going to  
6           be really beneficial to us. I think it's a  
7           great way to show that we support them and we  
8           won't stand for any of these practices.

9                     You know, it is something that is  
10          still in existence today. There are surveys  
11          and studies that show that LGBTQ youth across  
12          the nation have experienced conversion therapy.  
13          And it's not just in rural communities. And a  
14          lot of people are surprised that it's still  
15          allowable legally at least for minors to be  
16          subjected to this treatment.

17                    And, you know, so I think that it's,  
18          you know, doing our small part in helping to  
19          abolish such practices and to show the LGBTQ  
20          community that they are accepted and loved as  
21          they are. And, yeah, so that was, you know,  
22          it's personal for me and just really proud of  
23          this Council tonight and that I had the  
24          opportunity to bring this forward.

25                   MR. DONAHUE: Great. Thank you.

1 Thank you for all the work you put forward on  
2 this. Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare  
11 Item 7-B as amended legally and lawfully  
12 adopted.

13 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
14 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION -  
15 RESOLUTION NO. 149, 2021 - AMENDING RESOLUTION  
16 NO. 80, 2020 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING  
17 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
18 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A ROAD MAINTENANCE  
19 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
20 LACKAWANNA COUNTY FOR THE PAVING, REPAIR,  
21 SNOWPLOWING, SIGNAGE AND ANY OTHER MAINTENANCE  
22 DUTIES, AS NEEDED ONCE THE 300 BLOCK OF CENTER  
23 STREET HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ONE-WAY" TO REFLECT  
24 THE CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ONE-WAY  
25 TRAVEL FROM WYOMING AVENUE TO PENN AVENUE IN

1 THE REVISED MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT.

2 MR. DONAHUE: What is the  
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Public Safety?

5 MR. MCANDREW: As Chairperson for  
6 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
7 final passage of Item 7-C.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? Roll  
10 call, please.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

12 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
22 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 150, 2021 -  
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
24 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
25 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO SUBMIT THE



1 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
2 REPORT (CAPER) FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING  
3 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THE  
4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
5 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
6 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)  
7 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2020  
8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.

9 MR. DONAHUE: What is the  
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
11 Committee on Community Development?

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the  
13 Committee on Community Development, I recommend  
14 final passage of Item 7-D.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

16 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? Roll  
17 call, please.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

19 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
4 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 151, 2021 - ACCEPTING  
5 A DONATION PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
6 FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM GREGG L. SUNDAY AND JOAN  
7 M. SUNDAY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000.00 IN MEMORY  
8 OF SCRANTON FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN SUNDAY FOR THE  
9 PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT.

10 MR. DONAHUE: What is the  
11 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
12 Committee on Public Safety?

13 MR. MCANDREW: As Chairperson for  
14 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
15 final passage of Item 7-E.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

17 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? Roll  
18 call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

20 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare  
2 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

3 MS. REED: EIGHTH ORDER. OLD  
4 BUSINESS. Nothing at this time.

5 MR. DONAHUE: If there is no further  
6 business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Motion to adjourn.

8 MR. DONAHUE: This meeting is  
9 adjourned. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

---

Maria McCool, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

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